

Wednesday, January 5, 2000

***First Nite Draws the Crowds**

Selectmen congratulated members of the town's First Nite Committee Monday night for a successful New Year's Eve celebration which is expected to launch an annual tradition in town.

First Nite Entertainment Co-Chairman Sheryl Strother

said an estimated crowd of over 3,000 revelers enjoyed a host of planned events highlighted by the four foot "millennium ball" drop from the Duxbury Middle School flagpole's top to bottom at midnight.

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Events were held at the Middle school and throughout the town including the high school and Holy Family Church, where volunteer and paid musical talent entertained all evening including mezzo soprano Beth MacLeod, the Snugtones, Courtney Desmond, Wayne Rapiet, and the Holly Stevenson quartet.

First Nite Chairman Barry

Wirt called the event a success with well over 4,000 First Nite buttons sold at \$5 each.

Organizers were particularly pleased with the overall family participation in town.

Strother said that next year even more effort will be put into special adult programs for later in the evening and more food will be available.

Among the many activities accessed by foot or by colorfully decorated shuttle buses, were a

labyrinth at the Art Complex museum, as well a hay rides, face painting, storytellers, dog tricks, magic acts, a noise parade, a variety show, dance, and battle of the bands.

The noise parade along St. George Street was a highlight of the evening around the school complex with luminaries extending all the way from Bay Road through Powder Point.

Selectman Andre Martecchini said he thoroughly enjoyed the evening. Selectman Margaret Kearney called it, "a great success".



Mezzo Soprano Beth MacLeod dances with her husband at First Nite festivities.